Under the Investment component of Accelarated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP), Government of India had so far sanctioned 100 projects at an estimated cost of Rs. 1127.12 crores to Andhra Pradesh for strengthening and upgradation at sub-transmission and distribution level. Under the Incentive component, Rs. 265.11 crores have been released to Andhra Pradesh as incentive for actual cash loss reduction.

Under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) in Andhra Pradesh 17 Districts have been taken up for implementation under phase-I of the programme involving an outlay of Rs. 648.16 crore for intensive electrification of 21,623 already electrified villages and about 31.66 lakh rural households (including about 21.14 lakh BPL households). DISCOMS are implementing the scheme in the State and contracts have been awarded for all the projects.

Electrification of Villages in Rajasthan

695. SHRI GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages electrified under the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana during the last three years in Rajasthan and what remains to be done;

(b) whether implementation of this scheme is not satisfactory;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps Government is taking for 100 per cent implementation of this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) Rajasthan Government has reported that electrification works have been carried out in 1,931 villages (1,361 un-electrified and 570 electrified villages) as on 16th November, 2007 under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) since he introduction of the scheme in April, 2005, as per the details given in Statement *{See* below).

The State has also reported that so far 2,44,778 rural household connections, including 1,34,780 BPL household connections have been released under RGGVY, details of which are given at Statement *(See* below). The State has so far availed Rs. 230.28 crore under RGGVY.

(d) The following steps have been taken by Government and Rural Electrification Corporation (REC), as nodal agency, for effective and expeditious implementation of the programme:

* To augment the implementation capacities of State Electricity Boards/Power Utilities, the services of Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) have been provided, which have demonstrated their capability in timely project execution with effective project management. Accordingly, REC has entered into Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with CPSUs like National Thermal Power Corporation, Powergrid Corporation of India, National Hydro Electric Power Corporation, and Damodar Valley Corporation.

* For effective implementation of the project, REC has also developed a framework covering the guidelines for formulation of projects, procurement guidelines and bidding procedure for procurement of goods and services for projects to be executed on turn key basis, draft franchisee guidelines and updation of existing REC's

technical specifications for equipment/material and construction standards for REC for adoption in the project implementation/execution.

* Detailed Project Report (DPRs) are being prepared district-wise for the purpose of turnkey implementation.

Statement

Progress of RGGVY in Rajasthan

As on 16.11.2007

SI. No	Year	No. of vi Mages wherein works for electrification have been reported by implemetin agency			No. of RHHs covered in cl. BPL	No. of BPL HHs covered	Amount released Rs. In crores
		Un-electrified	Electrified	Total			
1.	2004-05	0	0	0	0	0	9.33
2.	2005-06	230	0	230	505	0	47.20
3.	2006-07	765	570	1335	10514	9236	87.19
4.	2007-08	366	0	366	233759	125544	86.56
	TOTAL	1361	570	1931	244778 .	134780	230.28

Incentives for power consumers

†696. SHRI KESHUBHAI S. PATEL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the actual consumers have to bear the burden of power theft in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government is contemplating to take any special steps in the favour of honest power consumers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when these would be implemented and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to(c) Theft of eletricity is one of the major contributing factors impacting the financial health of power utilities adversely. This also contributes to poor quality of power supply; frequent load shedding and unscheduled outages. To enable effective control of theft of electricity, the Electricity Act, 2003 has incorporated specific provisions for detection of theft, speedy trial of theft related offences and also for the recovery of the charges of electricity stolen. Based on the feedback from the States and other stakeholders, the Central Government has fruther strengthened the theft related provisions in the Act by enacting the Electricity (Amendment) Act, 2007. By this Amendment Act, theft of electricity has been explicitly made a congnizable and non-bailable offence. The distribution licensees have been empowered to disconnect the supply of electricity upon detection of theft. The penalty for repeated theft of electricity by large consumers has also been enhanced.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.